National Employment Policy

2998. Dr. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a National Employment Policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Core Functions of DGLW

2999. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the core functions of the Director General of Labour Welfare (DGLW);

(b) whether employment in the unorganised sector falls within the jurisdiction of the Director General of Labour Welfare;

(c) if so, whether any step have been taken by the DGLW to protect employment in the bidi sector;

(d) the details of steps taken to influence inter-Ministerial policies affecting BIDIs and BIDI labour;

(e) what are the plans of DGLW to protect such employment in the BIDI Sector in future; and

(f) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (f) The work allocation of the Director General of Labour Welfare includes administration of five Welfare Funds, viz., the Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund, the Limestone and Dolomite Mines Labour Welfare Fund, the Beedi Workers' Welfare Fund, the Iron Ore, Manganese Ore and Chrome Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund and the Cine Workers' Welfare Fund. This office also deals with matter pertaining to policy and legislation relating to workers in the unorganised sector and specifically the administration of the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 and Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment & Conditions of Service) Act, 1996.

A number of critical issues relating to protection of employment in beedi industry have been referred to this office from time to time. These relate to exemption granted in excise duty to unbranded beedis, concession granted in excise duty to mini cigarettes, comprehensive legislation (Anti-tobacco legislation) proposed by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, to discourage use of tobacco in any form, 100% F.D.I. to MNCs in cigarette making, ban on sale of tobacco products on railway platforms, Excise duty exemption to cigarette making units in the growth and other such infrastructure centres in Assam and Tripura etc.

All these issues have been examined in Government and appropriate authorities have been advised to take in to account these concern while initiating further action on them.

Minimum Wage of Tea Plantation Workers in West Bengal

3000. SHRI DAWA LAMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 826 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd March, 2000 and state :

(a) whether Government are aware that there are permanent workers engaged in tea plantation in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the reasons for not incorporating the minimum wages of tea plantation workers of West Bengal; and

(c) what is the rate of minimum wage of tea plantation workers in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) There are various categories of workmen engaged in Tea Garden in West Bengal. There are daily rated workers and monthly rated workers of different grades like technical, clerical, medical and supervisory. Most of them are permanent while there are some temporary/ daily rate workers.

(b) In West Bengal though employment in Tea Industry has been added to the Schedule to the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, wages of all categories of workers engaged in Tea Industry are determined through Industry-wise negotiations and settlements.

(c) Minimum wage of a daily rated Tea Plantation Workers as on date is Rs. 34.80. Besides the wage in cash, the workmen in Tea Industry in West